

DNCR CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST 2022-2023

Governor's Capital Budget Hearing

June 23, 2020

DNCR's capital budget request for 2022-2023 comprises 9 projects with a total estimated cost of \$21,292,000. In order of DNCR assigned priority, the projects are as follows:

Priority 1. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM REPLACEMENT \$545,000

The goal of this project is to replace the department's two-way radio communications system which is used to coordinate law enforcement, fire protection, lifeguard and other agency personnel. The system, which dates back to 1995, is no longer supported by the manufacturer, which means that replacement parts may not be available. In the current system, field radios can only talk to the central dispatch station, not to other field units.

The new system will be:

- "Interoperative" so that field stations can talk to both central dispatch and other units.
- Compatible with municipal, county and DOS systems allowing coordination in emergencies when multiple agencies need to communicate.
- Attain better coverage areas
- Enhance the safety of both DNCR personnel and users of state reservations

This request is subdivided into two parts. This first part is for replacing radios in the southern half of the state. We would hope to make a similar request in the next biennium for the northern half of the state. This project was first presented in the 2020-2021 biennium but was only funded at 50%. Our intention with this request was to get sufficient funds so that the replacement of radios in the southern half of the state could go forward.

Recently, in discussion with DOS communications technicians, it has become apparent that there will be overlap between the DNCR and DOS radio communications systems. We are looking into the possibility of combining aspects of our two systems to avoid duplication of infrastructure and equipment with the hope of achieving significant cost reduction. If this combined use of equipment is feasible, we would hope to be able to significantly reduce the amount of this request.

Priority 2. ROOFING AND REPAIRS \$1,200,000

This request covers roofing, repair and deferred maintenance projects that are required to keep the state parks and other DNCR facilities operating and providing services. It provides a source of funding to allow the department to respond to critical facilities failures such as water and septic pump failures and storm damage.

The roofing component of the project proposes work totaling approximately \$340,000 and will complete the backlog of deferred roofing projects for DNCR buildings.

The repairs project list provided in our request is representative of the type of projects to be addressed, but in order to be able to respond to situations as they arise, it is intended that the list will be revised with additions and substitutions in the course of the biennium.

Priority 3 TOILET BUILDING UPGRADES \$2,290,000

The Division of Parks and Recreation maintains 85 toilet buildings and bathhouses in the state parks and at other DNCR reservations. Many of these have had long, hard service leaving them difficult to maintain and hard to keep clean. The quality and condition of our toilet facilities have a major effect on whether our visitors have a good experience in the state parks and whether they will plan return visits. It is an on-going initiative of the Division of Parks to upgrade or replace toilet buildings that no longer meet our state park standards.

In this biennium, we want to:

- Renovate the Hampton South Beach bathhouse
- Renovate and make additions to Pawtuckaway toilet building #2 and White Lake toilet building #2.
- Replace Franconia Notch, Lafayette Campground toilet building #3.

Priority 4 HISTORIC SITES RESTORATION \$580,000

Our state park historic sites have a backlog of deferred maintenance, but addressing it requires considerably more care and specialized preservation skills than dealing with deferred maintenance in the rest of the parks. The special importance of this work is that restoring the historic sites serves to help preserve New Hampshire's historic legacy. Projects that we would like to undertake in this biennium include:

- Fort Stark gate relocation, parking lot reconfiguration, pit toilet installation, accessible entrance to museum, oil house restoration, security improvements and site lighting.
- Re-construction of the stone seawall at the Wentworth Coolidge mansion.
- Repair of deteriorated brick masonry at Fort Constitution
- Repair and re-parging of masonry in the White Island light house tower.
- Installation of a solar powered electrical system for the Keeper's House at White Island

Priority 5 FIRE TOWER REPAIRS \$650,000

This request will fund the fourth and final phase of a multi-year project to upgrade New Hampshire's 15 fire towers. The fire towers continue to play a significant role in support of the Division of Forests and Lands forest protection mission, but in addition, they are widely recognized as iconic structures at their mountain-top sites. They are landmarks and destinations for hikers in the state forests.

The scope of work for each tower will include;

- Concrete foundation repair
- Structural steel reinforcing

- Stair tread replacement
- Cab replacement
- Safety railings at stairs and landings
- Guying cable replacement,
- Painting of tower steel work.

This phase of the project will repair towers on:

- Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard
- Federal Hill in Milford
- Belknap Mountain in Gilford

Priority 6 MT. WASHINGTON WATER SYSTEM UPGRADE \$975,000

The existing buried water tanks (installed in 1969) that serve the Sherman Adams Visitors' Center on the summit of Mt. Washington have reached the end of their service life and need to be replaced. This project will replace two old 20,000 gallon steel tanks with new, non-corroding FRP tanks of an equal capacity. The existing tanks are located 320 feet down-slope from the well. The new tanks will be relocated directly adjacent to the Sherman Adams Building, eliminating the long water pipe-line and extra pumping lift required in the old system.

The existing dual summer and winter water systems, currently required by the limitations of the existing freeze-prone tanks, will be replaced with a single year-round system that will eliminate the burdensome semi-annual task of switching over the systems with the change of the seasons. Pumps, piping and valves will be renewed and reconfigured to facilitate maintenance.

Priority 7 CANNON TRAMWAY REHABILITATION \$10,952,000

The current Cannon Mountain Tramway has been operating as a first class tourist attraction in the White Mountains for 40 years. After an inspection in 2018, DNCR was advised by the manufacturer (Dopplemayer/Garaventa companies) that the tramway is approaching the end of its service life. The electronic controls, the brake hydraulics, the carriages, and the hangers all need to be replaced and they need to be replaced as one unit of coordinated components.

In addition, the tramway support facilities including the base station building, the summit station building, and the towers that support the cables are all ready for rehabilitation and renewal.

The tramway has been one of the most significant attractions in the state parks since the first version was installed in 1938. That original tramway lasted 40 years before it was completely replaced in 1978-80 with the current system. Now it is once again time to ensure the reliable and safe operation of the tramway for the next 40 years.

Priority 8 ROADS AND PARKING LOTS \$1,875,000

This project will address the long-term wear and the resulting deterioration of paving on state park roads and parking lots. State park roads allow vehicular access to campgrounds and day use parks, but they also provide recreational routes through the parks for casual walkers, serious hikers, joggers and bicyclists. Cracked, broken and spalling pavement detract from the quality of our park visitors' experience. It may damage visitors' vehicles and in some cases, it poses a safety hazard.

This project will repave:

- Sections of campground roads at White Lake and Greenfield state parks
- The entrance road to Echo Lake State park
- The parking lot at Wallis Sands State Beach

Renewed pavement on our state park roads and parking lots will contribute to the positive experience that keeps bringing back the tourists that New Hampshire's economy relies on.

Priority 9 ODIORNE POINT STATE PARK FACILITIES UPGRADE \$2,225,000

This project will upgrade several park facilities at Odiorne Point to meet increasing usage at this state park in all seasons of the year. The 1972 vintage toilet building, which is at the end of its service life, will be replaced with a new facility that will also include a park store, park office, and storage space for park maintenance equipment. A new pavilion in the picnic area will upgrade the rental tent currently offered for group functions. The parking area will be extended to increase parking from 66 spaces to 120 spaces. A new bus parking area will be created as a more efficient alternative to parking the many school group buses on the lawn as is currently done.